

Neighborhood Services Department

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June 18, 2008

Ms. Lori Muller
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Muller:

Thank you for taking time to attend the City of Champaign's Neighborhood Information Meeting regarding the status of the Manufactured Gas Plant Site located on the property east of Fifth and Hill Streets in Champaign. A list of attendees is enclosed; along with a brief summary of the meeting high points.

According to the information shared by Stan Black, Illinois Environmental Protection at the meeting on June 5th, the next report from Ameren IP is anticipated during the month of July, 2008. Once that information is received and a review made Champaign will schedule a follow up neighborhood meeting to keep residents abreast of further findings.

If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact Eleanor Blackmon, City of Champaign Public Works Engineering Division, 403-4710 or me at 403-7070.

Sincerely,

Mable Thomas *K.R.*

Neighborhood Coordinator

Attachment (1)

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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Neighborhood
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Manufactured Gas Plant Site Environmental Update City of Champaign

Meeting Date: Thursday, June 5, 2008

Location: Douglass Annex Building
Fifth and Grove, Champaign, Illinois

Time: 6:00 PM

Subject: City of Champaign's Review of the AmerenIP Report and
Findings to date - Manufactured Gas Plant located at Fifth and Hill
Streets

Meeting Overview & High Points

- Purpose of the Meeting – To provide outside review and interpretation of the facts and technical information regarding the gas and oil manufactured plant at Fifth and Hill Streets in Champaign.
- Welcome/Introductions – City staff introduced the program and apologized for the absence of Gina Jackson, Council Representative for District #1 due to illness. Staff also introduced local representatives from the Illinois and US Environmental Protection Offices, State Public Health Department, and State of Illinois Representative Naomi Jacobson and Illinois State Senator Mike Frerichs.
- Presentations - Eleanor Blackmon, Public Works Engineer provided a history, background and timeline of the issues surrounding the manufactured plant and ended with the introduction of Dr. Nick Schneider of Rapp's Engineering, a consultant contracted by the City of Champaign to review the AmerenIP findings and reports to date.

In addition, Stanley Black, Community Response Analyst –Office of Community Relations with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Dr. Greg Dunn, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Analyst provided a brief review of the State's involvement in the plant and how the US Environmental Protection Agency became involved. Dr. Dunn explained that at this time the reports and analysis indicate that there is no threat to human health and the environment

from the soil inside the immediate area of the plant. Stan Black talked about other locations throughout the state of Illinois with greater potential for being contaminated and how they are being handled.

Overview

Only a few actual residents from the impacted area attended; however a number of concerned citizens from the community were also present. A list of the meeting attendees is provided at the end of this summary. Meeting participants asked questions of Dr. Schneider regarding the possible existence of the original oil and gas containers still in the ground. Dr. Schneider was able to assure them through the report from the site that those items were removed with the original cleanup efforts in 1997 and 1998 by AmerenIP. Other questions involved the amount of waste still present on the site. This was cleared by separate samplings done by Dr. Schneider's group to be well below safe amounts and he provided the test results. Another area of questioning had to do with the possibility of cancer creating substances and Dr. Schneider provided facts and numbers showing that there was no measurable amount on the site at this time. He was careful to note that he could not guarantee what might have been there in the past, nor could he assure anyone that there might not be some toxic items off site or outside of the plant grounds. Overall, the belief that the City of Champaign is concerned about the health and well being of the residents in the area was made apparent.

In summary, Dr. Schneider provided the following handout excerpt from his report for City Council:

- *"There does not appear to be any immediate threat to human health or environment in the neighborhood of Fifth and Hill Streets, Champaign, Illinois.*
- *The Comprehensive Site Investigation Report, Former Manufactured Gas Plant, Champaign, Illinois and Off-Site Investigation Work Plan, Former Manufactured Gas Plant, Champaign, Illinois prepared by AmerenIP consultant Philip Environmental Services Corporation are competent and complete.*
- *AmerenIP appears to have accurately documented as well as implemented an appropriate plan to more precisely define environmental conditions in the neighborhood of Fifth and Hill Streets, the general location of the former Manufactured Gas Plant.—Copyright 2008 Rapps Engineering and Applied Sciences, Inc."*

AmerenIP Update

IEPA staff Dr. Gregg Dunn, provided a similar overview of the status of the project to date. A list of the attendees from both the State of Illinois EPA and the US EPA is included at the end of this summary.

Stanley Black, Community Response Analyst, IEPA, elaborated on the overall State program and advised the group that the gas manufactured plant at Fifth and Hill was only one of 175 sites in the State of Illinois which the State EPA are in the process of cleaning up. Black went on to explain that cleanup strategies are reviewed for each site and recommendations are made based on public health issues in and surrounding each site. Other sites close to Champaign with serious health issues and more aggressive strategies included Danville, Bellville and East St. Louis.

A follow up neighborhood meeting will be planned as soon as the next phase of the AmerenIP Report has been released and can be reviewed. Estimated time for release of the report is July 2008.

History of Manufactured Gas Plant Site

- Timeline of operation and events- Manufactured Gas Plant Site at Fifth and Hill Streets in Champaign, Illinois

Manufacture Plant Operation	1869-1933	
Disuse	1933-1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1960 +/- Surface structures except booster house demolished
Reuse	1979-1991 (American Legion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1990 Initial Ameren site reconnaissance• 1990 Coal tar exposed by American Legion drainage grading• 1990 Site surface stabilized
Remediation	1991-2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AmerenIP buys site• 1997/98 "Source" material removed from site (Interim Remediation Activities)• 2007 Report of Investigation. Goal: Define site contamination• 2008 Proposed Work Plan. Goal: Define off site contamination and limits

**Attendees from the Douglass Neighborhood
And Other Concerned Citizen Groups**

Name	Address	Phone	Status to MFP
Grant Antoine	2606 Cherry Hills Dr.		Unknown
Vera L. Wesley	412 E. Eureka		Resident
Veola Tinsley	205 E. Hill St.		Resident
Tiffanie Denny	IDPH-Springfield		Unknown
Paulette Culver	2602 W. Kirby		Unknown
Allison Jones	1118 W. Park		Unknown
Claudia Lennhoff	44 E. Main St., C		CG
Anne Gargame	710 W. Church St. #5		Unknown
Julie Wurth	News Gazette		News
Danny Duong	901 Springfield		Unknown
Michael Frerichs	45 E. University		State Senator
Naomi Jacobson	Champaign		State Rep.
Matt Schiel	2103 Galen Dr.		Unknown
Charles Allen	704 W. Hill St.		Local
David Gonzalez	187 W. John St.		Unknown
Nathaniel Banks	1009 W. Clark		Local
Walter Mell	409 E. Grove		Resident
Mr. Pelmore	Hill Street		Resident
Mrs. Sibley	Washington St.		Resident
Mr.s. Brown			Resident

State and Local Officials and Staff

Name	Address	Phone
Stan Black	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	785-1427
Tom Hornshaw	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	785-0832
Amanda Metz	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	IEPA
Jason Crampton	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	557-8859
Maggie Carson	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	558-1536
Mick Hans	US Environmental Protection Agency	312 353-5050
Lori Muller	US Environmental Protection Agency	312 886-2433
Ken Page	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	
Connie Pearson	Park District	398-2522
Jamael Jones	Park District	819-3902
Cary Ware	Illinois Dept. of Public Health	278-5900
Greg Dunn	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	